

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1. In Fig. 1, the internal toothing has been illustrated. No new matter has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

The office action of September 15, 2008, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the drawings are objected to on various grounds.

The specification is objected to for not containing section headings, and for problems with the abstract of the disclosure.

The claims are objected to on formal grounds.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Hecke.

In connection with the Examiner's objections to the application, applicant has attached hereto an Abstract of the

Disclosure and has amended the specification to include section headings.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the objections to the application are overcome and should be withdrawn.

Regarding the objection to the drawings, applicant has attached hereto a Replacement Sheet in which the internal toothing has been shown. The reference character L in the specification refers to a prior art document and is not in the drawing of the present application. The reference character L has thus been deleted from the specification. The reference numeral 5 designates a pressure sleeve and the reference numeral 11 designates a shear valve, which is shown as a dark pin-like element mounted in the shear collar 10 and the pressure sleeve 5 in Fig. 1. Thus, it is submitted that reference numerals 5 and 11 identify different elements. The main drivetrains, rolling stands and permanent seat have been deleted from the claims. The pressure gap is indicated by 14. The pressure fluid is no longer specifically claimed. The shear collar 10 is permanently connected to the spindle section 6 via the inner sleeve 4 permanently seated on the spindle section 6. The shear valve is illustrated in Fig. 1 and indicated with the

reference numeral 11.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings is overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claims 1-7.

Applicant has amended the claims to address the objections raised by the Examiner. In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the objections to the claims are overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness pointed out by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file contain subject matter which is sufficiently described in the specification so as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. Relative to the "pressure sleeve 4 and the pressure gap 14 pretensioned with pressure fluid to produce a nonrotatable connection", this is described at least at lines 17-22 of page 9 of the specification. The fluid pressure on the outside of the sleeve-like extension 13 presses the extension 13 against the inner sleeve 4 so that there is no rotation between the sleeve 4 and the extension 13. The shear valve 11 is discussed on page 10, lines 17-23. Fig. 1 shows more than the Examiner suggests. The shear valve is indicated with the reference numeral 11 and is shown as a pin-like member.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the reference, it can be seen that the patent

to Hecke discloses a pressurized drive coupling. In Hecke both of the coupling parts are connected by a multiple edges. These interacting multiple edges prevent a relative rotation between the two coupling parts. When the elements 42 and 16 are inserted into each other the connection is nonrotatable. Since this connection has a known amount of play, oil pressure is used to press the socket wall 34 against the stem 16 so that no more play is present.

In the presently claimed invention, on the other hand, the oil pressure provides a slip coupling that allows relative movement of the coupling parts when overload occurs.

A comparison of the toothed coupling 6 of the reference with the inner sleeve 4 of the present invention is not possible. In the present invention the extension 13 of the sleeve 3 is between the inner sleeve 4 and the pressure sleeve 5, and is tensioned by fluid pressure to cause a frictional connection that can give way in the event of an overload. The connection of Hecke cannot give way due to its form-locking nature. Thus, Hecke does not disclose the presently claimed invention.

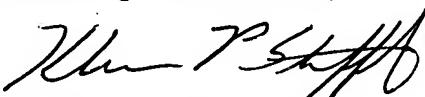
In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 17, 2009.

By:



Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: February 17, 2009